

GENERAL PATIENT CARE STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

DATE APPROVED: AUGUST 2007

I. Scope

This standard shall apply to all members who provide pre-hospital care, treatment, or transportation for the sick and injured.

II. General

- A. The general guiding principle of the department is to do no harm. Members shall always render whatever treatment is necessary, appropriate, and consistent with their level of training, and the departments EMS license level.
- B. All patients shall be treated with care and respect regardless of their age, gender, race, sexual orientation, medical condition.
- C. Each patient shall receive a thorough evaluation to determine their condition. Of immediate concern are:
 - 1. Airway and respiratory maintenance.
 - 2. Circulation.
 - 3. Control of bleeding.
 - 4. Stabilization of fractures.
- D. The primary evaluation and stabilization shall be performed where the patient is found unless circumstances present an immediate threat to the patient or provider.
- E. The patient shall then be stabilized and packaged for transport to a medical facility if the patient's condition warrants. The patient's condition shall be continuously monitored until they are turned over to the ambulance crew.
- F. A patient may refuse transportation, however, and will not be transported against their will unless they are incapable of making that decision due to their mental status, age, or medical condition.
- G. Clothing and personal property shall not be removed from the patient unless it interferes with proper treatment. The patient's modesty and right to privacy shall be strictly observed. Any search for identity shall be witnessed, preferably by a law enforcement officer. All valuables removed from the patient shall be turned over to a family member, the police, or the ambulance crew.